on the lines of Bangladesh tax to mobilise additional financial resource to help the Punjab Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

Punjab is facing financial imbalance on account of increased non-Plan expenditure on security related and other matters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is fully seized of the problem of financial imbalance being faced by the Government of Punjab.

Payment of Pension from Banks in Rajkot

2327. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of pending cases of pension clearance and due for payment in various branches of nationalised banks at Rajkot;

(b) what are the reasons for non-payment of pension by the banks even after receiving pension release order from the concerned pension authority;

(c) whether it is fact that most of pensioners are facing hardship in getting their payment on time through branches of nationalised banks; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the interest of aged pensioners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the nationalised banks, there is no pension case pending and due for payment in the branches at Rajkot. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not received any complaint against the branches of nationalised banks in Rajkot regarding payment of pension. However, certain complaints have been received by RBI regarding delayed payment of pension in other areas. The complaints have been taken up by RBI with concerned banks for redressal of the grievances.

Direction to States regarding Foreign Tours by Ministers

2328. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that there are any standing directions to the various State Governments that they should inform P.M.O. or seek permission before the Ministers from State make foreign tour; and

(b) if so, what is the number of Ministers who made foreign tour during last one year, State-wise alongwith their disignations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) As per Government of India guidelines circulated to all State Govt., proposals for foreign visits of the Ministers from States are required to be submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs who process the case and refer the proposal to the Prime Minister's office for obtaining the clearance of Prime Minister.

(b) During the Calendar year 1991, two Chief Ministers and 9 Ministers of States went on visits abroad. The break up of details is as follows :—

1. Assam 2 (Minister for Labour and Minister for Industries).
2. Haryana : 1 (Minister for Animal Husbandry).
3. Karnataka : 1 (Minister for Agriculture).
4. Maharashtra : 1 (Chief Minister).
5. Manipur : 1 (Minister for Arts and Culture).
6. Uttar Pradesh : 2 (Minister for Sugar Industries & Minister of Health and F.W.).
7. West Bengal : 3 (Chief Minister (Twice), Minister for Mass Education Extension, and Minister of Finance.